

**Statewide Planning Advisory Council**  
State Plan for Alabama Higher Education 2009-10 to 2013-14  
May 8, 2008  
Troy University Montgomery Civic Room

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

**Present:** Pamela Arrington (ACHE); Gregory Fitch (ACHE); Priscilla Holland (UNA); Robert Ashurst (AUM); Tony Thacker (SDE); John Severn (UAH); Denver Betts (Athens); Steve Turkoski (Dothan Area Chambers); Sam Addy (UA); Mike Hardin (UA); Kathleen Hall (Jeff Davis CC); Judy Bonner (UA); Bill Hornsby (ADECA); Alice Schaum (ADECA); Paul Mohr (ACHE); Jenny Folsom (WCC); Ellen Haulman (ACHE); Matthew Duke (AUM); Paul Hankins (AL Independent Colleges); Linda Glaze (AU); Carla Roberson (AL Power); Alicia Simmons (JSU); Janet Warren (AUM); Steve Marlowe (AL Power); Evelyn White (ASU); John Dew (TROY); Jim Farris (Montevallo); George Scott (EOCC); Ken Tucker (UWA); Glenna Brown (UAB); Don Edwards (Postsecondary); Teresa Merriweather-Orok (A&M); Tim Vick (ACHE); Jacinta Whitehurst (ACHE).

**I. Call to Order**

The Statewide Planning Advisory Council meeting was called to order by Dr. Pamela Arrington, Director of Instruction, Planning and Special Services, Alabama Commission on Higher Education at 9:30 a.m.

**II. Welcome and Introductions**

Dr. Arrington welcomed all Council members in attendance and thanked them for serving on the Statewide Planning Advisory Council. Guests in attendance were introduced. Dr. Arrington then introduced Dr. Gregory G. Fitch, Executive Director of the Alabama Commission on Higher Education.

**III. Overview**

Dr. Fitch stated the challenges facing higher education, which he feels need to be addressed in the next statewide plan.

He referenced the statue associated with the Alabama Commission on Higher Education responsibility for long range planning, which reads as follows: *"The commission shall be responsible for statewide long-range planning for postsecondary education in Alabama. Such planning shall be the result of continuous study, analysis and evaluation. Plans will include the establishment of statewide objectives and priorities with methods and guidelines for achieving them."*

He then offered ideas to the Council in their planning effort such as providing long term focus on priorities; increasing the accountability in operations and performance; informing and serving all of the citizens; encouraging statewide participation; and integrating institutional and business plans as part of the statewide network.

#### **IV. Alabama Higher Education and Economic Development**

Dr. Arrington introduced Dr. Samuel N. Addy, Director and Associate Research Economist, The University of Alabama.

A power point presentation on “Alabama Higher Education and Economic Development” was given by Dr. Addy. The presentation is at [www.highered.alabama.gov/spac](http://www.highered.alabama.gov/spac). After questions and answers, Dr. Arrington thanked Dr. Addy for his presentation.

#### **V. The State Planning Process**

Dr Arrington stated that the Council would decide which priorities to focus on in the State Plan using the responses from the “Shaping the Agenda for Higher Education” survey.

She presented a step by step review of the State Plan Development Timeline. The timeline is at [www.highered.alabama.gov/spac](http://www.highered.alabama.gov/spac).

#### **VI. Priorities for Higher Education**

Dr. Arrington introduced Mr. Robert T. Ashurst, Senior Consultant, Center for Government from Auburn University Montgomery.

Mr. Ashurst gave a brief overview of the planning process and the top ten state plan priorities that were chosen based on the survey results. A copy of the "Development of the State Plan for Higher Education Planning Process and Priority Setting" is at [www.highered.alabama.gov/spac](http://www.highered.alabama.gov/spac). He facilitated the voting of the top five key priorities that Council members will focus on:

1. Increasing Students Preparedness for College generally;
2. Coordinate Pre-K to 20 systems with participation from all stakeholders;
3. Shortage of graduates in Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics fields;
4. Tuition increase and other costs, such as fees and textbooks; and
5. Skills students will need in the future, and on defining appropriate college preparation and admission standards.

Council members formed subcommittees based upon the top five priorities. A list of all subcommittees is at [www.highered.alabama.gov/spac](http://www.highered.alabama.gov/spac).

#### **VII. Adjournment**

The meeting of the Statewide Planning Advisory Council was adjourned at 11:57 a.m. The next meeting of the Statewide Planning Advisory Council is tentatively scheduled for August 2008.